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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JUNE 1991

Forest pest conditions in the Maritimes, as they appear at the end of June 1991, are summarized here in our second report of the year.

The accumulated heat units have increased forest pests rates of development in southern New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia, except on Cape Breton Island, such that they are about 10-14 days ahead of normal development.

Weather effects have been the most notable stress factor on trees and forests to date. Late frost at the end of May, reported previously, caused damage to a wide variety of hardwoods and balsam fir throughout the region; hail storms and associated high winds at the end of June in southwestern New Brunswick and parts of western Nova Scotia have destroyed some gardens and beat down grainfields with hailstones of at least mothball size. Forest damage has been most obvious in areas of central Carleton County, New Brunswick, where the ground was covered with leaf litter and small twigs. A 4- to 5-year-old red pine plantation had one to three shoots broken off on one-third of the trees. In between, precipitation was well below normal and unevenly distributed during the month of June in much of the region. For example, Fredericton reports an accumulated rainfall of only about three-quarters of normal for the month and, of that, 60% fell in 2 days. These, combined with the drought of last year and the resultant heavy seed crop on many species this year, is undoubtedly putting a stress on trees, especially in areas where they also have to cope with the added pressures of urban environment.

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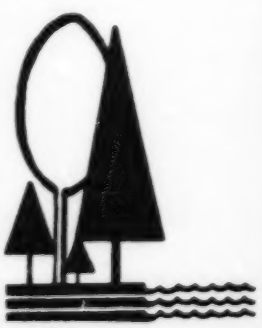

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Hemlock looper has reached outbreak proportions on Deer Island, Charlotte County, New Brunswick. Loopers can be found throughout the island; understory balsam fir had defoliation ranging from 40 to 100%, red spruce has faired better with defoliation ranging to a maximum of 40%. Development in southern New Brunswick was well advanced by the end of June with many larvae in the fourth of their five instars.

Gypsy moth larvae have been found at a few additional locations, all in Nova Scotia: Annapolis Royal and Bridgetown, Annapolis County, Bear River, Digby County, Shelburne, Shelburne County, and at sites in Kejimkujik National Park in both of Annapolis, and Queens counties. No noticeable defoliation was reported at any of these locations.

Forest tent caterpillar defoliation has been observed by ground and aerial surveys at Coal Branch, Kent County, three areas between Tracy and Rusagonis, York County, an at scattered locations in central Sunbury and Queens counties, New Brunswick. Moderate and severe defoliation has been limited to small patches. No defoliation was observed in Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island.

Spruce budworm aerial defoliation surveys will begin soon. Defoliation to be mapped appears limited to northern areas of New Brunswick and southern Kings County, Prince Edward Island. Larvae were common on white spruce in Inverness County, Nova Scotia, but defoliation was only trace.

Strophosoma melanogrammum has caused severe or moderate defoliation on 45% of young red spruce in a 2-ha plantation at Hunter Mountain, Victoria County, Nova Scotia. Generally not known to be of economic importance, this small weevil was first reported causing severe damage on red pine in 1988 on Cape Breton Island.

Other forest pests of note: **pine leaf adelgid** caused light damage on red spruce at a number of locations in Kejimkujik National Park; **uglynest caterpillar** nests are found with increasing frequency on roadside cherry in New Brunswick; **winter moth/Bruce's spanworm** severely defoliated wild apple at several locations in eastern Albert County, New Brunswick; **balsam twig aphid** is more widespread regionally and is causing more damage; **birch casebearer** is common on birches in Carleton, Madawaska and Restigouche counties, New Brunswick; **cherry casebearer** is present in moderate and severe populations at scattered patches of trembling aspen in southeastern Queens and southern Kings counties, Prince Edward Island; **elm leafminer** discolored English elm in some towns in Kings, Hants and Colchester counties, Nova Scotia; **elm leaf beetle** skeletonizing is reaching moderate levels in Fredericton, New Brunswick; trees infected by **Dutch elm disease** are becoming obvious.

J. Edward Hurley and L.P. Magasi
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

July 4, 1991

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